Data Sources for Producing Indicators for Policy Area 1

Technical Workshop on International Migration and Temporary Mobility Statistics

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Overview

1. **Core International Migration Indicators for Policy Area 1**

2. **Data Sources**
   - Population censuses
   - Surveys
     - Specialized migration surveys
     - Modules added to household surveys
     - Passenger surveys
   - Administrative data sources
   - Non-traditional data sources

3. **Challenges in producing indicators**

4. **Recommendations**
### Core Indicators for Policy Area 1

**STOCKS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Migration Indicator (MI)</th>
<th>Primary topics for disaggregation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number/proportion of _____ in the total resident population</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign-born population</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign citizen</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign-born citizen</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Native-born foreign citizen</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native-born (native) citizens</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MI 1.2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Migration Indicator (MI)</th>
<th>Primary topics for disaggregation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of _____ who obtained citizenship over a given year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native-born foreign citizen</td>
<td></td>
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**FLOWS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Migration Indicator (MI)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual number of immigrants who are _____</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign-born population</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign citizen</td>
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**MI 1.4**

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual number of emigrants who are _____</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign-born population</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Foreign citizen</td>
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**POLICY AREA 1**

Improve the measurement of international migration and temporary mobility stocks and flows

**Stocks**: size, characteristics and geographic distributions of international migrant and temporary populations present in the country at a particular point in time

**Flows**: number of immigrants and emigrants during a given year
Data Sources

Population Census
Comprehensive national enumeration of all persons capturing demographic data

Surveys
- Specialized migration surveys
- HH surveys / LFS
- Passenger surveys

Administrative Data Sources
- Population registers
- Border records
- Residence permits
- Visa databases
- Social security records

Non-traditional data sources
Can supplement traditional data sources, filling data gaps
Population Census - Advantages

- **Universal Coverage** of resident population, including undocumented migrants, refugees and stateless persons.
- **Reliable source** in the absence of comprehensive administrative registers.
- **Rich socio-demographic data** and characteristics allow comparisons between migrants and non-migrants.
- **Basis for survey sampling frames** and population estimates between census years.
Population Census - Limitations

**Infrequent**
New data available approximately every 10 years

**Limited Space**
Questionnaire space is costly, limiting migration-specific questions

**Flow Limitations**
Cannot capture detailed migration flows, particularly emigration

**Undercounting**
Potential undercounting of highly mobile populations, undocumented, etc.
Surveys

- Specialized migration surveys
- Modules added to household surveys
- Passenger surveys

Advantages

- More frequent than censuses
- Can include detailed migration modules
- Allow in-depth analysis of migration causes/consequences
- Flexible design to target migrant populations

Limitations

- Sample size issues for migrant subgroups
- Cannot capture full migration flows
- Comparability issues across countries
- Potential underrepresentation of migrants
- Can be resource intensive
### Surveys

<table>
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<th>Specialized migration surveys</th>
<th>Modules added to HH surveys / LFS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Advantages</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Advantages</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Flexible, targeted design</td>
<td>• Regular data collection</td>
<td>• Information on international mobility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Allow in-depth analysis of migration causes/consequences</td>
<td>• Cost-effective</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Allow for mainstreaming migration data into various social areas covered by the surveys</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
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<th><strong>Limitations</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Resource intensive - unsuitable for annual international migration statistics</td>
<td>• Large samples needed to identify enough migrants for meaningful analysis</td>
<td>• Low proportion of migrants among all border-crossers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Usually carried out in a receiving country</td>
<td>• Non-random missing data</td>
<td>• Potential exclusion of less frequent origins/destinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Concentration of migrants in specific regions</td>
<td>• Limited interview time, restricting the number of questions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Administrative Data Sources

**Stocks**

- Integrated population registration systems
- Centralized population registers
- Social security and health insurance registers
- Income and tax registers
- Residence permit databases
- Consular registers

**Flows**

- Border records
- Visa databases
- Residence / work / study permit databases
- Passport databases
- Social security and health insurance registers
Administrative Data Sources

**Continuous collection**
Continuous monitoring of migration flows and updates of population stocks

**Cost-effective and timely**
Low marginal cost

**Captures specific events**
Visa issuances, border crossings, citizenship changes

**Key variables**
Often includes key variables like date of arrival, legal status

**Duration of stay and intent not captured**
Typically contains dates of events or validity periods of documents

**Limited coverage**
Limited to documented migrants

**Registration lag**
Can lead to under or overcounting of the resident population

**Multiple statuses**
One individual can have different statuses across systems

**Inconsistent definitions or concepts**
May not align with statistical concepts, Definitions may not be consistent across sources
Non-traditional Data Sources

- Ethical considerations
- Inherent bias
- Data access
- Complex analysis

+ Fill data gaps
+ Hard-to-count phenomena
Challenges in Producing Indicators

Flow and Stock Alignment
Aligning flow and stock measurements

Population Components
Capturing all components of migrant populations

Data Integration
Integrating data from multiple sources

Consistent Definitions
Applying consistent definitions across sources

Enabling environment
Legal frameworks, allocation of resources, capacity development
Recommendations

**MI 1.1:** Number/proportion of foreign-born, foreign citizens, etc. in total resident population (STOCK)
- Population census
- Population register (where available)
- Integrated administrative data

**MI 1.2:** Number of people who obtained citizenship over a given year (STOCK)
- Administrative records on naturalization
- Population register (where available)

**MI 1.3:** Annual number of immigrants (FLOW)
- Population register
- Integrated border crossing and residence permit data
- Survey data (e.g., questions on residence one year ago)
- Social security and health registers

**MI 1.4:** Annual number of emigrants (FLOW)
- Population register (where available and well-maintained)
- Mirror statistics from main destination countries
- Household surveys with emigration modules
Thank you!